

Cary Wilson

Hearing on responding to long term unemployment

Here's my story.

I'm a 52 year old female who lost her job in 3/08 at a Hotel/Casino due to our jobs being outsourced. I am an Accounts Payable Clerk and never thought my job would be outsourced. I worked for this company for 18 years. In the past 2 plus years I have applied for all kinds of jobs including those that I am qualified for. In these 2 years I have had maybe 6 interviews and no job offers. It's very humbling to send out all those resumes and not even get a call. I have a solid work background, ethic and history. If I do get a job offer and they do a credit check, I won't get the job because my credit is shot. Can't pay bills on unemployment. After about 3 months unemployment I went to several recruitment agencies such as Robert Half, Accountemps, Business Careers, Kelly Services, Corestaff Services, and Volt Services Group to help me find a job. I met with their recruiters and was told I was an excellent job candidate. After not hearing from any of them for a week I started checking their web sites for job listings. When I found a job I was qualified for I would contact the agency and ask to be interviewed for the jobs. Every job I asked about I was told was either filled or the company wasn't hiring. I did this for 3 months and not once was I called for an interview. I finally gave up on these agencies. So now I am doing my own job search. I must send out at least 25 to 30 resumes a week. I also go to several big business around here once a week to see if they have any openings.

I received my last check end of March. I have used my entire 401k and have sold anything of value. My last item of value is my car and right now I'm just about ready to sell it. It's worth about \$500.00. I was never able to afford a house (got child support now and then) so thank god I just lost my apartment. I have been renting a room for the last 2 years. My children live out of state and financially can't help me. I have no money to get there if they could. My father is on a limited income because his stock tanked and can't offer any help either. I can't apply for welfare with no kids to support. So as of the end of June I will be homeless, with no hope of getting a job at all. I've worked since I was 16 years old and now have nothing to show for it.

When I got called for an interview I would ask how many resumes they received and was told between 300 and 500. I know they are saying that there are 6 people for each job but this seems more of a spread then that. Also about 30% of the postings in the Seattle area for an Accounts Payable Clerk or Specialist want a degree. Now this job is usually a 11.00 to 16.00 per hour job and does not need a degree.

Please pass a bill to extend the unemployment benefits. I don't want to end up on the streets for the rest of my life. I can't see a way that I could even look for a job if I lived in the streets. Our country is all about charity, and doesn't charity begin at home?

I will not go into how our Representatives and the Senate has treated the long term unemployed, but I will be voting the next election.

Hope this letter got my point across. We need our unemployment.

Thanks for listing to me,

Cary Wilson

